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TITLE: Access control of networked data

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INVENTOR-INFORMATION:

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ABSTRACT:

An access control technique to limit access to information content such as available on the Internet. The technique is implemented within a network device such as a proxy server, router, switch, firewall, bridge or other network gateway. The access control process analyzes data in each request from the clients and determines if the request should be forwarded for processing by a server to which it is destined. Access control may be determined by comparing client source information against a database of Uniform Resource

Locators (URLs), IP addresses, or other resource identification data specifying the data requested by the client. The invention therefore provides access control not based only upon content, but rather, based primarily upon the identity of the computers or users making the requests. The technique further avoids the problems of the prior art which categories or filters the content of only web pages based solely upon objectionable words. This is because a category database is used by the network device to control access and is created via a process involving human editors who assist in the creation and maintenance of the category database.

27 Claims, 4 Drawing figures

Exemplary Claim Number: 1

Number of Drawing Sheets: 4

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Detailed Description Text - DETX (29):

In the www.xxx.com example, step 154 may obtain, for example, a page or meta-description of the entire web site that may look something like "www.xxx.com is an adult oriented site supplying **pornographic images** to web browsers." In the Multicast example, whois may return "1244.0.0.0 is an internet Multicast channel served from a SUN Workstation at XYZ Corporation and is dedicated to providing real-time audio and video information on religious

activities." This description is saved in step 154, since it may be relevant for determining the category of the web site or content server, which in the first case is sexual material, and in the later case is religious material.

Detailed Description Text - DETX (48):

In this manner, the present invention provides a robust data access filtering system that provides access control based on users, categories and times of use and not purely on content of data being accessed. This is beneficial since content filtering alone often overlooks objectionable material such as **pornographic images**, which contain no words to content filter upon.